

Application No. 10/589,554
Amendment dated March 9, 2009
Reply to Office Action of December 9, 2008

Docket No.: 1503-0191PUS1
Art Unit 1791
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5 have been amended to add reference numeral 22, 23 as requested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacements Drawings (4 Sheets) – Figs. 2-5

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicant's claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that the Applicant's claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicant. As the Examiner will note, Replacement Sheets are being filed for Figs. 2, 3, 4 and 5 that illustrate the flow path 22. The flow path 22 was originally illustrated in Fig. 1. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added to the drawings. The drawings now comply with the requirements of the USPTO. If the Examiner has any objections to the Formal Drawings please contact the undersigned as soon as possible so that appropriate action may be taken. No further action is believed to be necessary at this time unless the undersigned receives a notice from the Examiner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 14, 2007. An initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08A has been received from the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 stand objected to because of various inconsistencies. As the Examiner will note, claims 1, 2 and 3 now refer to the press shoe as element 70. The reference character K is now referred to as the loading unit in claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to refer to the piston part 100. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to refer to the second piston part 1, 114. The Examiner's objections to the claims have been obviated.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note:

1. claim 1 has been amended to provide support for "a shoe pressing supporting beam;"
2. claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled;
3. element K is now referred to as the loading element;

4. claims 5-8 now depend from claim 4;
5. claim 1 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for “the second piston part” set forth in claim 6;
6. claim 8 has been amended to delete the language “preferably comprises” the claim now indicates that the joint includes a spherical surface part;
7. claim 1 has been amended to provide support for “a supporting surface.” Thus, proper antecedent basis is now provided in claim 9. In addition, claim 9 has been amended to refer to the supporting beam 12.
8. claims 11 and 12 have been amended to provide proper support for “a second cylinder space.” In addition, claim 1 has been amended to provide proper support for “a second piston part.”

The Examiner’s rejection under 35 112 has been obviated.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Saarine, US 4,713,147. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Brendel et al, US 6,899,023. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Gustavsson et al, US 7,172,679. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 1029b) as being anticipated by Palmgren, US 6,093,283. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, claim 1 has been amended to be directed to a combination of elements wherein the a loading unit is arranged to be movable in a longitudinal direction of the

machine. In addition the limitations of claim 3 have been added to claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by the prior art cited by the Examiner. As set forth in Section 2131 of the MPEP Original Eight Edition, August 2001 Latest Revision February, 2003, page 2100-70:

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. Of California, 814 F2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).... "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claims." Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F2d 1226, 1236, 9 USQP2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

As the Examiner will note, claim 1 has been amended by adding features of original claim 3. More specifically, the feature that "...loading unit (K) to be movable on the press shoe (70) and on the supporting beam (12) so, that the loading unit (K) is movable in the space between the press shoe (70) and the supporting beam (12) at least in the machine direction (MD) when the press shoe (70) is supported by preventing its movement in the machine direction..." has been added to claim 1. This is based on page 8, lines 7 to 10 and page 28 lines 18 to 20 of the specification. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled.

As indicated above, for the sake of consistency the feature "loading element (K)" in claim 1 has been amended to "loading unit (K)." Support for the amendment is based on claims 2 and 3 as originally filed.

Further, claim 1 has been amended and is now directed to a loading unit for a shoe press, especially designed to apply a load to the shoe of the shoe press. The unit includes a first cylinder part and a first piston part disposed in the cylinder part, a second piston part

arranged in the cylinder part, in which piston part the surface facing towards the inner wall of the cylinder part is so shaped as to permit mutual tilting of the piston part and the cylinder part, the loading unit is arranged to be movable in the longitudinal direction (MD) of the machine.

Claim 1 includes the piston part and/or the cylinder part that are/is provided with means for arranging a loading unit to be movable on the press shoe and on the supporting beam so, that the loading unit is movable in the space between the press shoe and the supporting beam at least in the machine direction when the press shoe is supported by preventing its movement in the machine direction. The piston part and/or cylinder part are/is provided with means for reducing lateral forces between the loading element and the shoe press supporting beam or equivalent and that the loading unit is at least partially supported on the transfer means at least at one end, either on the side of the press beam or on the side of the supporting beam, in such manner that the transfer means are locked at least when the compressive action of the loading unit is on.

A problem with all the prior-art solutions is that they provide only limited possibilities of adjustment. In addition, to make an adjustment, it has been necessary to dismantle the whole shoe press structure and only then carry out the adjustment.

It is an object of an embodiment of the present invention is to achieve a completely new type of solution for the loading unit of a shoe press that will allow the draw-backs of prior art to be avoided. Another object of an embodiment of the invention is to achieve a shoe press loading unit that will make it possible e.g. to vary the distribution of compression

of the shoe press in a versatile manner. A further object of an embodiment of the invention is to achieve an adjustment solution that can be used without dismantling the structure of the shoe press.

The Saarinen patent is directed to an extended nip press for a paper machine for removing water from a wet paper. The loading shoe may be pivoted around an axis parallel to the axis of the press roll. The Saarinen patent does not anticipate the combination of elements as set forth in claim 1.

The Brendel et al patent is directed to an extended-nip roll press for dewater a fibrous web in a press nip. The roll centers lie in a stack plane with the extended-nip press roll having a stationary support and a flexible roll cover that can rotate about the support. The Brendel et al patent does not anticipate the combination of elements as set forth in claim 1.

The Gustavsson et al patent is directed to a press device with an extended press nip for a continuous paper web. A press shoe, a backing member, a support and a plurality of loading cylinders with main axes are provided in a longitudinal direction. The Gustavsson et al patent does not anticipate the combination of elements as set forth in claim 1.

The Palmgren et al patent is directed to a method for supporting a press shoe in a shoe press for a paper machine. The press shoe together with a counter roll form an extended nip for the paper and for a flexible circulated belt. The Palmgren et al patent does not anticipate the combination of elements as set forth in claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art cited by the Examiner does not set forth each and element as defined in the claims. Thus, the Examiner's rejections based on 35 USC

102 has been obviated.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

If the Examiner has any questions with regard to this application please contact the undersigned so that an interview can be arranged in connection with this application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. A full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action. The present application is now in condition for allowance.

A prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

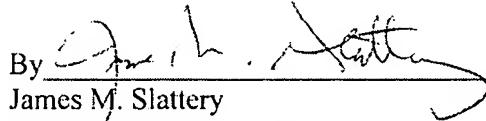
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 9, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Replacement Drawings
Marked-Up Copy of Specification Showing Corrections
Clean Copy of Specification